



# San Diego City Attorney Michael J. Aguirre

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **AGUIRRE EMBRACES REFORM AND COMMITMENT TO A “NEW SAN DIEGO” IN SPEECH TO DOWNTOWN ROTARY**

**San Diego, CA:** In a major speech yesterday to San Diego’s Downtown Rotary Club 33, San Diego City Attorney Mike Aguirre outlined his vision for a “New San Diego” and challenged rotary members to dedicate themselves to “the reforms necessary to transform our City to the greatness of which it is.”

“San Diego is busy being born again into a more progressive community dedicated to the fundamental proposition that community power is to be used for community purposes...The question before all of us now is whether we want to help this New San Diego come to full maturity or to continue the self-defeating battles to gain control of the machinery of City government to serve narrow economic interests,” Aguirre remarked.

City Attorney Aguirre cited five tenets that comprise his vision for a New San Diego:

- 1) The New San Diego is committed to building a powerful economy based upon long term trends. We need to work with and support our major industries which provide jobs and wealth to our City. We must respect fundamental economic principals.
- 2) Those who are a part of the New San Diego favor using sound financial analysis when considering how to expend the City’s resources. They have learned the lessons from the ticket guarantee, and the major last minute changes to the ball park financing that costs the city millions of dollars with no corresponding benefit to the City’s bottom line.
- 3) Those seeking to be a part of the New San Diego realize that our revenue base for the City is too narrow. The cry to raise city services and lower taxes is a great campaign slogan. It belongs in the same discredited category as the promise to raise pension benefits while lowering the City’s contribution rates to the pension fund.
- 4) Our major institutions can contribute to the formation of the New San Diego by remaining true to their purposes. Taxpayer groups cannot allow themselves to be co-opted into supporting ticket guarantees or new subsidies for corporate sports teams. Our Chamber of Commerce cannot be diverted from its mission to promote sound economic policies because of the political alignment of their board.

5) We can never be the great city we should and could be without a great newspaper. Just recently, the San Diego Union Tribune received the Pulitzer Prize, the highest journalistic achievement attainable, for its exposure of Congressional corruption. The New San Diego needs that same level of intense investigative reporting at City Hall. The paper cannot be the advocate for the old San Diego, which believes in government by special interests.

The City Attorney was introduced by Mayor Jerry Sanders and delivered his remarks to a rotary crowd of 225 at the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel. The Downtown San Diego Rotary Club 33 was formed on June 2, 1913 and is one of the oldest clubs of the more than 30,000 clubs worldwide. Its website notes that "Club 33 has been a community resource producing mayors, councilmen, county supervisors, State and national legislators, judges, and commissioners, plus heads of most community-oriented organizations, professional societies, and business associations at local level, and some at State and national levels as well".

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